

Message Text

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73

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 CG-00 AGR-20 L-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 DLOS-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SSO-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /079 W
----- 055844

O 062125Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5704

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4318

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, XP, OCON, NL

SUBJECT: U.S. FLAG VESSEL OFFLOADS TUNA

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY GOCR THAT U.S. FLAG VESSEL MARIA ELENA OF WESTGATE FLEET OFFLOADED 400 TONS OF TUNA FISH IN PUNTARENAS YESTERDAY, DECEMBER 5. CATCH REPORTEDLY CONSISTED OF 10 PERCENT SKIPJACK AND 90 PERCENT YELLOWFIN.

2. DCM WAS CALLED TO FONOFF THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN CONFIDENCE. HE WAS TOLD THAT AUTHORITY TO OFFLOAD TUNA WAS GRANTED LAST NIGHT PERSONALLY BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE--WHO APPARENTLY WAS NOT COGNIZANT OF INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS--IN VIEW OF PRESSING NEED FOR TUNA IN DOMESTIC MARKET. GOCR RECOGNIZES POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA CONVENTION, BUT HAS CHARACTERIZED MIXED CATCH AS AN ERROR AND BELIEVES THAT COSTA RICAN PEOPLE SHOULD NOT NOW BE PENALIZED AFTER THE FACT BY DESTRUCTION OF THE CATCH (WHICH GOCR PERHAPS ERRONEOUSLY UNDERSTANDS WOULD BE PENALTY UNDER CONVENTION). FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD DCM THAT PRESIDENT FIGUERES INFORMED OF THIS MATTER AND HE SUPPORTED RETENTION OF THE CATCH TO MEET PRESSING NEEDS OF DOMESTIC MARKET.

3. GOCR HAS REQUESTED USG UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT IN
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THIS EXCEPTIONAL CASE AND HAS REMINDED US OF COSTA RICA'S

LONG-TIME COOPERATION ON TUNA CONSERVATION MATTERS, INCLUDING
NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATIONS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE
ESCAPED OUR ATTENTION. SINCE GOCR IS OBVIOUSLY VERY CONCERNED
ABOUT HIS MATTER, EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT NO ACTION BE
TAKE
YTHAT WOULD PENALIZE GOCR AND THEREBY JEOPARDIZE FUTURE
COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD.
ALSO REQUEST NO RPT NO ACTION BE TAKEN WITHOUT PRIOR ADVICE
TO EMBASSY.
VAKY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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